PDS benefit for BPL people

5042. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the action proposed to ensure that people below poverty line actually get the benefit of PDS and not the middlemen/traders, who are the beneficiaries as ration items reach the market place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): Public Distribution System is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government is respons'ible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities up to the central godowns and making them available to the States. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops and administration of PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. A series of measures have been taken by Government of India to ensure that people living below poverty line actually get the benefit of PDS.

State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shop (FPS) and other levels to curb diversion and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in implementation of PDS. They have been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and bogus units in the ration cards. The State Governments have also been advised to initiate action against erring FPS owners under Essential Commodities Act, 1955. A model Citizens' Charter for PDS has also been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption in order that there is transparency and accountability in the system so that PDS commodities reach the targeted beneficiaries efficiently. The Government of India has also appointed Area Officers to States/UTs to monitor the functioning of PDS including complaints of diversion.

Transportation charges for sugar retailers of Punjab

5043. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a case regarding fixation of transportation charges for